

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07634 01 OF 02 031814Z

51

ACTION SS-25

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P R 031639Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0798

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 7634

EXDIS

FOR H AND EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US, OREP (EILBERG, JOSHUA)

SUBJECT: CODEL EILBERG IN KIEV

REF: (A) MOSCOW 7479; (B) MOSCOW 7501 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: CONTROL OFFICER WHO ACCOMPANIED CODEL EILBERG TO KIEV FELT DELEGATION DEPARTED KIEV REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH SOVIET REATMENT AND RECEPTION THERE. KIEV VISIT, HOWEVER, WAS SOMETIMES STORMY AND ADVERSARY IN NATURE. IN VIEW OF PROBABILITY THAT SOME CODEL MEMBERS WILL RAISE COMPLAINTS WITH PRESS AND SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON, FULL REPORT OF EVENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER FOLLOWS: END SUMMARY.

2. DELEGATION ARRIVED KIEV LATE EVENING MAY 29, AND WAS RECEIVED AT AIRPORT BY KIEV INTOURIST DEPUTY DIRECTOR FEDOR YAKOVLEVICH PEREVERZEV, WHO REMAINED WITH GROUP AND WAS ONLY LIAISON WITH KIEV AUTHORITIES. (PEREVERZEV SAID HE HAD SERVED IN LONDON AS CULTURAL OFFICER SOME YEARS AGO. THROUGHOUT ADVERSARY EPISODES OF VISIT, CONTROL OFFICER ENDEAVORED TO EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY CODEL'S ACTIONS TO PEREVERZEV, ON ASSUMPTION PEREVERZEV WAS REPORTING TO KIEV AUTHORITIES. PEREVERZEV SHOWED NO SOPHISTICATION ABOUT VISITING CONGRESSMEN'S INTERESTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07634 01 OF 02 031814Z

MOTIVATIONS AND BEHAVIOR. UNLIKE COUNTERPARTS IN MOSCOW

AND LENINGRAD, HE SEEMED NEVER TO HAVE EXPERIENCED GROUP OF PROMINENT AMERICANS INTERESTED IN SENSITIVE ISSUES, AND HE INDICATED THAT JUST BECAUSE SOME BEHAVIOR (I.E., MEETING WITH REFUSNIKS") WAS TOLERATED IN MOSCOW THERE WAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE IT WAS CONDONED IN KIEV. "WE HAVE OUR (STRESS) REPUBLIC," HE ASSERTED. PEREVERZEV'S FREQUENT BAFFLEMENT AND LACK OF PERSPECTIVE ABOUT CODEL MAY HAVE BEEN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL REACTION OF KIEV OFFICIALDOM, WHO HAVE HAD LITTLE IF ANY CONTACT WITH VISITING AMERICAN POLITICIANS.)

3. MORNING MAY 30, CODEL STAFFERS ENDEAVORED TO PHONE "REFUSNIK" CONTACTS ON LIST PROVIDED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOVIET JEWRY. LIST HAD FIVE KIEV NAMES - ILYA ZLOBINSKY; VADIM SHEINIS; ALEKSANDR MIZRUKHIN; VLADIMIR KISLIK; AND KISI FRIDMAN. NO PHONES ANSWERED, SO CODEL STAFFERS WERE INSTRUCTED TO SET OUT TO TRY TO LOCATE REFUSNIKS' APARTMENTS. SINCE STAFFERS SPOKE NO RUSSIAN AND COULD NOT READ CYRILLIC ALPHABET, CONTROL OFFICER DECIDED TO ACCOMPANY THEM IN SPITE OF EMBASSY POLICY TO THE CONTRARY. AFTER SOME EFFORT STAFFERS AND CONTROL OFFICER LOCATED MILA MIZRUKHINA, WIFE OF ALEKSANDR. SHE REPORTED THAT REFUSNIKS HAD NO ADVANCE NOTICE OF CONGRESSMAN'S VISIT, BUT HAD SPECULATED SOME SUCH VISIT WAS IN OFFING BECAUSE ALL SEVEN LEADERSHIP REFUSNIKS HAD BEEN SENT BY THEIR RESPECTIVE EMPLOYERS ON KOMANDIROVKAS (BUSINESS TRIPS) OR SHORT-TERM FARM WORK O/A MAY 29, AND ALL WERE DUE TO RETURN O/A JUNE 2. THE SEVEN INCLUDED ALL FIVE NCSJ NAMES LISTED PARA 3 ABOVE. ONE, FRIDMAN, HAD SUCCESSFULLY DECLINED TO LEAVE TOWN FOR SHORT-TERM FARM WORK BECAUSE HIS MOTHER WAS ILL. MIZRUKHINA SAID SHE BELIEVED A TOTAL OF 22 KIEV FAMILIES HAD BEEN REFUSED EXIT FOR ISRAEL, BUT SHE WAS IN CONTACT WITH ONLY THE LEADERSHIP SEVEN.

4. CONTROL OFFICER AND STAFFERS MISSED SUPREME SOVIET MEETING BECAUSE OF TIME SPENT IN EFFORT TO LOCATE "REFUSNIKS". SUPREME SOVIET MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY REASONABLY CORDIAL, AND LASTED FAR BEYOND SCHEDULED ENDING.

5. EILBERG OPENED MEETING WITH PROCURATOR F. K. GLUKH WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 07634 01 OF 02 031814Z

STRONG PROTEST ABOUT ABSENCE OF "REFUSNIKS", AFTER WHICH EILBERG WITHDREW FROM MEETING BUT REMAINED IN ROOM. THERE FOLLOWED MORE ACRIMONIOUS DISCUSSION OF REFUSNIKS' ABSENCE, CASES OF VALENTIN MOROZ AND LEONID PLYUSH, ETC. ONE CONGRESSMAN ACCUSED PROCURATOR OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR "REFUSNIKS" ABSENCE, AND SAID PROCURATOR'S ACTION WOULD HAVE DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND PROCURATOR PERSONALLY. CONGRESSMAN GAVE PROCURATOR

ULTIMATUM TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN OF "REFUSNIKS"
TO KIEV BY C.O.B. AT END OF STORMY SESSION
ONLY CONTROL OFFICER WENT TO SHAKE HAND OF PROCURATOR,
WHO HESITATED BUT DID ACCEPT CONTROL OFFICER'S EXTENDED HAND.
PROCURATOR, HOWEVER, WAS OBVIOUSLY FLABBERGASTED AND FURIOUS
ABOUT MEETING.

6. NEXT ACTIVITY WAS VISIT TO BABIY YAR, PRECEDED BY STOP
AT KIEVPROEKT FOR BRIEFING ABOUT PLANNED BABIY YAR MONUMENT.
AT BRIEFING CODEL EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT PLANNED
MONUMENT'S LACK OF SPECIFIC COMMEMORATION OF JEWS.

7. THAT EVENING EILBERGS, STAFFERS AND CONTROL OFFICER HAD
DINNER WITH MILA MIZRUKHINA AT DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT. SHE
REPORTED THAT KISI FRIDMAN WAS STILL IN TOWN, BUT WAS AFRAID
TO MEET CODEL AND HAD ADVISED HER AGAINST DOING SO.

8. MORNING MAY 30, CODEL HAD PLEASANT VISIT TO KIEV
SYNAGOGUE. SUBSEQUENT SCHEDULED EVENT WAS VISIT TO
UKRAINIAN REPUBLIC OVIR, WHERE CODEL ARRIVED TO BE RECEIVED
BY GEN. LT. OF MILITIA V. F. ZAKHAROV, PLUS OTHERS INCLUDING
A. A. PETRENKO OF REPUBLIC OVIR, AND V. ., SIFOROV OF CITY
OVIR. MEETING OPENED GUARDEDLY, BUT QUICKLY TURNED INTO
FRANK BUT CORDIAL DISCUSSION OF EMIGRATION. IN RESPONSE
TO QUESTIONS BY EILBERG, ZAKHAROV GAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION
ABOUT REFUSALS OF FIVE CASES CITED PARA 3 AND AGREED TO
REEXAMINE THEM IN NEAR FUTURE. ZAKHAROV NOTED THAT IN
1973, 1974 AND 1975, AUTHORITIES HAD REFUSED CUMULATIVE
TOTAL OF 116 APPLICATIONS FROM KIEV RESIDENTS FOR EXIT
VISAS FOR ISRAEL. OF THE 116 REFUSED, 54 WERE SUBSEQUENTLY
ISSUED UPON RECONSIDERATION OR SUCCESSFUL APPEAL. DURING
SAME PERIOD ABOUT 500 EXIT VISAS TO ISRAEL WERE REFUSED
IN ALL OF UKRAINIAN REPUBLIC, BUT HE HAD NO COMPARABLE
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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 07634 01 OF 02 031814Z

FIGURE FOR SUBSEQUENT ISSUANCE OF PREVIOUS REFUSALS AT
REPUBLIC LEVEL. ZAKHAROV NOTED THAT ONE JEW HAD BEEN
REFUSED FIVE TIMES BUT RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION UPON SIXTH
APPLICATION. HE DENIED THERE IS ANY QUOTA OR CEILING ON
NUMBER OF EXIT VISAS WHICH MAY BE ISSUED.

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07634 02 OF 02 031822Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 7634

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9. ZAKHAROV NOTED THAT APPLICATIONS FOR EXIT VISAS FOR ISRAEL HAD DECLINED; THERE WERE 29 PERCENT LESS IN KIEV IN 1974 THAN IN 1973, AND IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1975 THERE WERE HALF AS MANY AS IN THE COMPARABLE PERIOD OF 1974. AS PART OF EXPLANATION FOR DECLINE HE SHOWED STACK OF PHOTOCOPIES OF LETTERS RECEIVED AT OVIR FROM EMIGRANTS WHO HAD DEPARTED AND WERE DISSATISFIED WITH LIFE ABROAD.

10. CODEL ALSO RAISED VARIOUS CRIMINAL CASES INCLUDING DOCTOR SHTERN OF VINNITSA, AND HAD DETAILED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE OPTIONS IN CASE OF DISSIDENT LEONID PLYUSH WHO IS INSTITUTIONALIZED IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL. CODEL WAS INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF PLYUSH'S EMIGRATION OR TRAVEL TO U.S. FOR PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT, ACCOMPANIED BY FAMILY. ZAKHAROV MADE NO COMMITMENTS. MEETING ENDED WAY BEHIND SCHEDULE, BUT ON CORDIAL NOTE.

11. AS MEETING BROKE UP, MEZVINSKY AND CONTROL OFFICER LEARNED FROM INTOURIST THAT VISIT TO MEZVINSKY'S FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE AT MOSTOVE, TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR THAT AFTERNOON, WAS NOT ALLOWED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES. MEZVINSKY'S DESIRE FOR SUCH VISIT HAD BEEN REPORTED TO MFA IN MOSCOW MAY 20, AND TO SOVEMBASSY WASHINGTON PREVIOUSLY, ACCORDING TO MEZVINSKY. CODEL AND CONTROL OFFICER HAD MENTIONED MATTER TO PEREVERZEV DAILY, AND WERE NEVER TOLD CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07634 02 OF 02 031822Z

TRIP WOULD BE DISALLOWED. MEZVINSKY WAS FURIOUS, NOT JUST THAT TRIP WAS DISALLOWED BUT ALSO BECAUSE HE WAS NOT INFORMED UNTIL LAST MINUTE, AND THEN BY INTOURIST RATHER THAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. MEZVINSKY AND CONTROL OFFICER

APPROACHED ZAKHAROV ON SIDEWALK OUTSIDE OVIR, AND HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER AND PHONE MEZVINSKY AND CONTROL OFFICER AT HOTEL. MEZVINSKY CONSIDERED SIT-IN AT OVIR, BUT DECIDED TO RETURN TO HOTEL.

12. MOST OF CODEL DEPARTED FOR SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO COLLECTIVE FARM. EN ROUTE HOLTZMAN VISITED BIRTHPLACE OF HERE MOTHER, VILLAGE OF BELAYA TSERKOV.

13. MEZVINSKY AND CONTROL OFFICER RETURNED TO HOTEL TO AWAIT CALL FROM ZAKHAROV, WHICH NEVER CAME. THE TWO THEN SEARCHED FOR AND LOCATED RELATIVES OF MEZVINSKY IN KIEV, AND ENJOYED PLEASANT AFTERNOON VISIT.

14. UPON RETURN TO HOTEL THAT EVENING, EFFORTS TO ELICIT PERMISSION FOR MOSTOV VISIT OR AT LEAST REASONABLE REPLY FROM OFFICIALDOM WERE RESUMED. PEREVERZEV REPORTED VILLAGE WAS NOT CLOSED, BUT COULD ONLY BE REACHED BY TRAVEL THROUGH CLOSED AREA. NUMEROUS CALLS WERE MADE, LAST OF WHICH WAS TO SIFOROV AT HOME AT MIDNIGHT. NONE PRODUCED DESIRED RESULT AND AS REPORTED MOSCOW 7498, MEZVINSKY THREATENED TO REFUSE TO DEPART U.S.S.R. UNLESS HE RECEIVED PERMISSION TO VISIT MOSTOVE OR RECEIVE EXPLANATION. CODEL MEMBERS RETURNED FROM COLLECTIVE FARM, AND ALL HAD LATE SUPPER.

15. SOME MEMBERS OF CODEL HAD STRONG DESIRE TO MEET PLYUSH'S WIFE TATYANA ZHITNIKOVA, BUT HAD NOT HAD TIME IN BUSY SCHEDULE TO DATE. THUS, ABOUT 1 A.M. MORING JUNE 1 EILBERG, HOLTZMAN, DODD, MEZVINSKY AND CONTROL OFFICER SET OUT IN TAXI TO FIND HER. SHE WAS AT ADDRESS KNOWN TO CODEL, AND WARMLY WELCOMED UNEXPECTED VISITORS AT 1:30 A.M. SHE HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF HUSBAND'S SITUATION WITH CODEL.

16. JUNE 1 WAS MARKED BY MORE UNSUCCESSFUL PHONE CALLS TO OVIRS IN KIEV, PLUS MEZVINSKY'S THREATS TO SOVIETS TO REFUSE TO LEAVE. AS REPORTED REF B, EMBASSY MADE SUPPORTING APPROACHES TO MFA IN MOSCOW. CONTRARY TO MFA CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 07634 02 OF 02 031822Z

ASSURANCES REPORTED MOSCOW 7500, NO RESPONSIBLE OR SENIOR OFFICIAL MET MEZVINSKY TO EXPLAIN REFUSAL.

17. EARLY AFTERNOON JUNE 1 ENTIRE CODEL FLEW OFF TO VIENNA.
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